



Volume 16

Fall 2014

SERV Study Newsletter

Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans



Department of Veterans Affairs



SERV Study progress

New telephone extensions

The main number for the SERV Study is (203) 932-5711 extension 8634 or 8605

Thanks to all Veterans who have participated in the study so far— your input is extremely helpful to us. We have spoken to male and female Veterans of all ages and from all branches of military service. We now have 449 male and 185 female Veterans enrolled all 50 states. **We desperately need more female Veterans.** 36 month follow up surveys have begun and are going very well.

We have a raffle winner!

Congratulations to Sarah from Texas! Her name was chosen from a random drawing on September 2nd, 2014. She won a \$100 Visa gift card to spend as she chooses. Our next drawing will take place on Monday, December 1st 2014. Good luck to all our Veteran participants! The winner will be notified by email and phone.



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Other research opportunities coming soon:

Some of you may have been invited to participate in an online web survey involving Veterans' sexual health and well-being. The study was begun because there is little knowledge at VA on how to properly treat Veterans with sexual problems. We hope that the information obtained from this survey will help inform the VA on the current problems experienced by our Veterans so that the VA can design and implement better health care. All SERV participants are eligible to participate in this project, and the survey is a one-time online questionnaire. This survey is online, confidential, and can be completed in the privacy of your home.

Please do not feel obligated, though; your participation in any research is voluntary. If you choose not to participate, this will have no effect on your regular participation in SERV.

Evening calls:

The SERV Study staff make every effort possible to accommodate work schedules and varying time zones. However, we are not staffed every night at present, so there are a limited number of evening slots.

If you have scheduled an evening appointment, please try your best to answer as the next evening appointment may be 3-4 weeks later.

Our mailing address:

VA Connecticut Healthcare System
950 Campbell Avenue– Bldg. 8
NEPEC/ 182
West Haven, CT 06516

Phone: 203-932-5711 ext. 8634

Email: SERVStudy1@gmail.com

Safety Issues!

Due to safety concerns, we cannot conduct a SERV Study interview if you are operating a motor vehicle. Everyone is extremely busy these days, but your interviewer needs to know that you are safe, especially while reading your response booklet.

Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans

Miscellaneous

Long Term Follow Ups– After you have completed the 12-month follow up, you only need to receive calls every 6 months. Some changes with the 18-month and beyond: religious/spirituality questions are removed, and a few questions are added concerning exercise habits, PTSD diagnosis and complementary/alternative medicine. It is actually about 5 minutes shorter!

Response booklets– please have your booklet handy at the time of the interview. We know that our survey is a long one, and the booklet allows you to finish your telephone call more quickly and get on with your day.

BLUE Booklets: Baseline (first) interview only

YELLOW Booklets: 3-, 6-, 9-, and 12-month follow ups only

PINK Booklets: 18-, 24-, 30-, 36-month follow ups only

Useful links:

National Resource
Directory:

www.nrd.gov

National PTSD website:

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

PTSD Program Locator:

[http://vaww1.va.gov/
directory/guide/
PTSD_flash.asp?isFlash=1](http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD_flash.asp?isFlash=1)

IAVA (Iraq and Afghanistan
Veterans of America)

<http://iava.org>

For a VA facility near you:

[http://vaww1.va.gov/
directory/guide/home.asp?
isFlash=1](http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1)

We're on the web!

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/serv/>